Fishing Regulations

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Yellowstone National Park

1975

FISHING IN A NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone is the world's first national park established for the protection of nature. The native cutthroat trout and grayling, which have disappeared from most of their original home waters in the Rocky Mountain region, still occur here. Brown, brook, rainbow and lake trout were first introduced into park waters in the late 1800's and early 1900's. These now "naturalized" trout, as well as the native cutthroat and grayling, occur as wild fish that maintain their numbers entirely by natural reproduction.

Fishing is permitted where it is compatible with the basic purpose of the park: preserving natural environments and providing the opportunity for visitors to see and appreciate native plant and animal life as it occurred in primitive America. Fishing in the wild environment of a national park is just one of the many ingredients that can contribute to a fulfilling park experience. Fishing by humans can be compatible with the park's basic purpose if it does not take away food that supports the fish-eating birds and animals and if it does not overexploit native fish populations to the extent that fish numbers decline.

In Yellowstone bald eagles, ospreys, pelicans, otters, grizzly bears and other park wildlife take precedence over humans in utilizing fish as food. You are encouraged to enjoy fishing as a means of seeing and learning about the wild fish that inhabit Yellowstone waters. But to help preserve these opportunities for future generations, the National Park Service asks that you carefully release your fish or keep only one or two for a campfire meal.

Fish to be released should be handled only with a fine-mesh landing net, and the hook removed with a long-nosed plier. If these are not available, grasp the fish carefully behind the head, and without removing it from the water, extract the hook with the fingers. The use of barbless hooks is a definite asset here. The fish should then be released simply by relaxing the fingers. If necessary, support the fish in an upright position until it regains its equilibrium.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

1975 Fishing Regulations

(Official Regulations are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter I, Section 2.13 and Section 7.13, Paragraph (e). This code may be found in any park administrative office)

(1) FISHING PERMIT

A current annual fishing permit is required and shall be in the possession of all persons twelve years of age and older who are fishing in the waters of Yellowstone National Park. Said permit shall be displayed on demand of any authorized representative of the Superintendent.

(2) OPEN FISHING SEASON (See Fishing Map on Reverse)

On all streams in the Yellowstone River drainage above the outlet of Yellowstone Lake (Zone 6) the season will open on August 1. On the portions of the Yellowstone River drainage between the Yellowstone Lake outlet and the Upper Falls (Zone 4) that are open to fishing (see section 4, Closed Waters) the season will open on July 15. All lakes in the above drainage (Zones 4 & 6) will be open to fishing on June 15. On all other waters of the park open to fishing, the season begins on May 28, and fishing throughout the park ends on October 31. The daily fishing period is from 5:00 A.M., MDT, to 10:00 P.M., MDT.

(3) PROTECTED SPECIES

Killing or possessing grayling is prohibited. All these caught must be returned unharmed to the water. They are easily identified by the extremely large dorsal fin. (See illustration on the front of these regulations).

(4) CLOSED WATERS

The following waters of the park are closed to fishing and are so designated by appropriate signs:

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ZONE 1

1. The Mammoth water supply reservoir.
2. The Yellowstone River from the top of the Upper Falls downstream to a point directly below the overlook known as Inspiration Point.

ZONE 3

1. Old Faithful water supply consisting of that section of the Firehole River from the Old Faithful water intake to the Shoshone Lake trail crossing above Lone Star Geyser.
2. Those portions of the Firehole River identified by the posting of appropriate signs, which lie in the immediate vicinity of hazardous or fragile thermal features.

ZONE 4

1. The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the confluence of Alum Creek with the Yellowstone River upstream to the Sulphur Caldron.

ZONE 6

1. The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the Yellowstone Lake outlet to a point one mile downstream (1.6 kilometers).
2. Pelican Creek from its mouth to a point two miles upstream (3.2 kilometers).
3. Bridge Bay Lagoon and Marina and Grant Village and Marina and their connecting channels with Yellowstone Lake.
4. Fishing is prohibited from the shores of the southern extreme of the West Thumb thermal area (posted) along the shore of Yellowstone Lake to the mouth of Little Thumb Creek.

ALL ZONES

1. Fishing from motor road bridges is prohibited.
2. Other park waters not specifically identified may, by the conspicuous posting of signs, be temporarily closed to fishing for spawning or research study purposes.

(5) CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS: (See Fishing Map)

Catch and release shall mean that all fish caught shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which the [illegible] park are designated as catch and release waters.

1. Slough Creek proper and McBride Lake (Zone 2).
2. Lamar River proper from its confluence with the Yellowstone River upstream to the mouth of Cache Creek (Zone 2).
3. Yellowstone River proper from one mile below the Yellowstone Lake outlet downstream to the Sulphur Caldron (Zone 4) (1.6 kilometers).
4. Yellowstone River proper from Alum Creek downstream to the Upper Falls. (Zone 4).
5. Lewis River proper below Lewis Falls. (Zone 5).
6. Heart Lake and its tributaries, and the Heart River downstream to Outlet Creek is catch-and-release for cutthroat trout only. For macs, brown and rainbow, zone limits apply.

(6) CATCH LIMITS. (See Fishing Map on Reverse)

The killing or possession of grayling is prohibited. For other fish, the bag limit on park waters open to fishing is two (2) fish per day or in possession. Exceptions to this are the catch-and-release areas described in Section 6 of these regulations and the following additional limit permitted in Zone 1. Three (3) additional brook trout, for a total of five (5) fish per day or in possession, may be taken in the Glen Creek drainage above Rustic Falls, on the Gardner River drainage above Osprey Falls, on the Lava Creek drainage above Undine Falls and on the Blacktail Deer Creek drainage, including Blacktail Ponds.

(7) LENGTH LIMITS. (See Fishing Map)

In Zone 3 on the Madison and Firehole Rivers and the lower Gibbon River up to Gibbon Falls, the *minimum* length is 16 inches (406 mm.). On Yellowstone and Riddle Lakes in Zone 6, the *maximum* length is 13.0 inches (330 mm.). All fish *over* this length must be released.

(8) TACKLE AND BAIT RESTRICTIONS:

Each fisherman may use only one rod or line, which must be held in the hand. Fishing in any other manner is prohibited. Only artificial flies may be used, and these flies may have only one hook. This hook may have single, double or treble points. The Madison and Firehole Rivers and the Gibbon River below Gibbon Falls are restricted to artificial flies only (Zone 3).

No stage of any [illegible] natural bait may be used, and no salmon eggs, processed or otherwise, are permitted except that persons 12 years of age or under may use worms as bait in the Gardner River, Obsidian Creek, Lava Creek and Panther Creek (Zone 1).

ZONE DESCRIPTIONS

Zone 1 — The Gardiner River Drainage, Grayling, Duck, and Cowger Creek drainages, Mol Heron Creek drainage, Reese, Stephens, and Landslide Creek drainages, the Gardiner River drainage and the Yellowstone River drainage from the north boundary upstream to the Upper Falls, except the Lamar River.

Zone 2 — The Lamar River drainage, plus the Middle Creek drainage east of Sylvan Pass.

Zone 3 — The Madison River drainage.

Zone 4 — The Yellowstone River drainage from the Upper Falls upstream to a point one mile downstream from the Yellowstone Lake outlet.

Zone 5 — All waters on the west slope of the Continental Divide.

Zone 6 — [illegible] including Yellowstone Lake [illegible] downstream from the Yellowstone Lake outlet, upstream to the park boundary.

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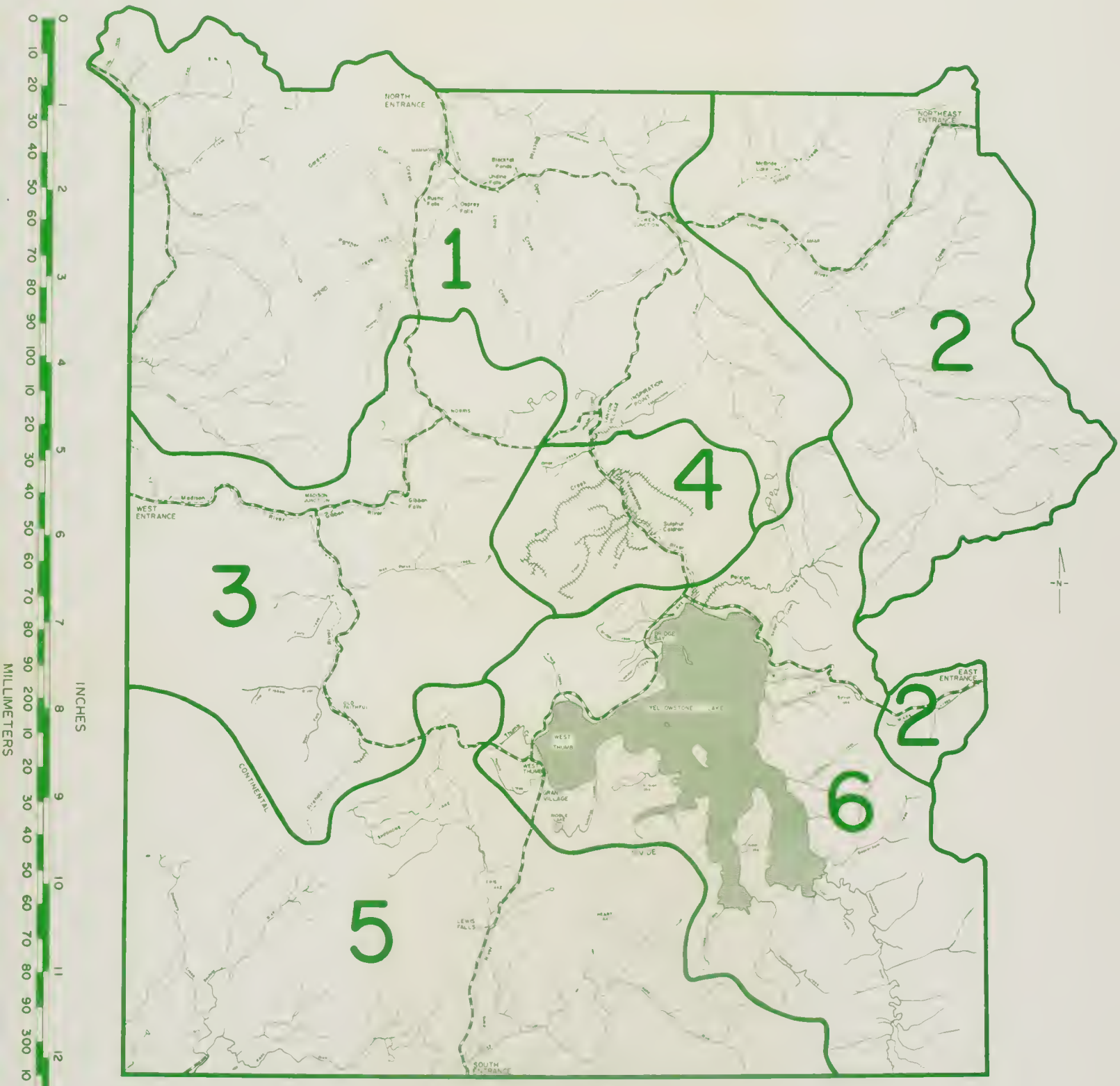

YELLOWSTONE FISHING MAP 1975

(See reverse for general regulations)

ZONE 1

Season May 28 to October [illegible]

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Five fish, any size except three must be brook [illegible]
Cross-hatched	Closed to fishing

ZONE 2 & 5

Season May 28 to October [illegible]

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Catch and release only

ZONE 3

Season May 28 to October [illegible]

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two fish, any size
Dotted Lines	Fly fishing only, two fish [illegible] inches or over [illegible] mm
Cross-hatched	Closed to fishing

ZONE 4

Season [illegible] October [illegible]

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two [illegible]
Dotted Lines	[illegible]
Cross-hatched	[illegible]

ZONE 6

Season

[illegible]	[illegible]
Lake	[illegible]

LIMITS

Solid Lines	Two [illegible]
Ripped Area	[illegible]
Cross-hatched	[illegible]

ALL WATERS NOT SHOWN

Zone Seasons and Limits Apply

LIMIT 2 fish, any size
SEE ZONE REGULATIONS

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON LIMITS OR TACKLE
SEE ZONE REGULATIONS

CLOSED TO FISHING

LIMIT 2 fish, 13.[illegible] 330 mm. OR *LESS*

PARK ROAD

ZONE BOUNDARY

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